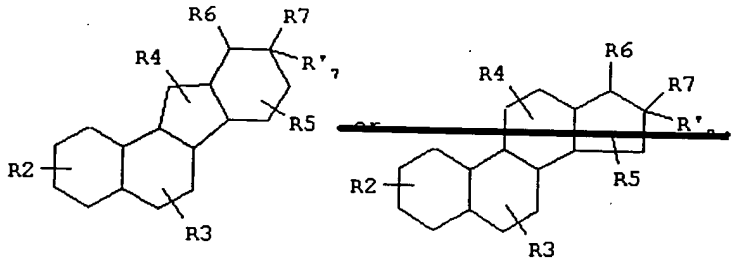
43. (Reiterated) The method of claim 3, 5, 6, 7, or 8, wherein the composition is administered topically.

44. (Reiterated) The method of claim 3, 5, 6, 7, or 8, wherein the antagonist is other than jervine.

The claims presented above incorporate changes as indicated by the marked-up versions below.

3. (Twice Amended) A method for inhibiting activation of a *hedgehog-patched* pathway in a patient diagnosed with a hyperproliferative disorder, comprising administering to the patient a composition ~~including~~ comprising a purified hedgehog antagonist in a sufficient amount to reduce the activation of the *hedgehog-patched* pathway in a cell of the patient, wherein the antagonist is a steroidal alkaloid having a structure represented in the general formulas (I), or unsaturated forms thereof and/or nor- or homo-derivatives thereof:



Formula I

wherein, as valence permits,

R_2, R_3, R_4, and R_5, represent one or more substitutions to the ring to which each is attached, for each occurrence, independently represent hydrogen, halogens, alkyls, alkenyls, alkynyls, aryls, hydroxyl, =O, =S, alkoxyl, silyloxy, amino, nitro, thiol, amines, imines, amides, phosphoryls, phosphonates, phosphines, carbonyls, carboxyls, carboxamides, anhydrides, silyls, ethers, thioethers, alkylsulfonyls, arylsulfonyls, selenoethers, ketones, aldehydes, esters, or $-(CH_2)_m-R_8$;

R_6, R_7, and R'_7, independently for each occurrence, are absent or represent~~, independently,~~ hydrogens, halogens, alkyls, alkenyls, alkynyls, aryls, hydroxyl, =O, =S, alkoxyl,